

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims and canceled claims, and hereby present the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that each of dependent claims 6, 19, 31, 58, and 70 (and the claims that depended therefrom) was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, to place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended each of independent claims 1, 15, 28, 54, and 67 to include the limitations of objected to dependent claims 6, 19, 31, 58, and 70, respectively. Thus, each of claims 1, 15, 28, 54, and 67, as well as each of the claims that depend therefrom, should now be in allowable condition.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended independent claim 40 to include the limitations of dependent claim 45. Applicants believe that independent claim 40, as thus amended, is allowable for reasons similar to the reasons claims 1, 15, 28, 54, and 67 are now allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional and/or different claims in one or more continuations applications.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Evans et al., Applicant(s)

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